

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A process for forming a finish upon a vehicle wheel comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a vehicle wheel;
 - (b) depositing a base layer formed from an organic material onto at least a portion of a surface of the vehicle wheel;
 - (c) curing the organic layer;
 - (d) depositing a first finish layer formed from a first inorganic material over the organic layer; and
 - (e) depositing a second finish layer formed from a second inorganic material over the first inorganic layer.
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 further including, prior to step (b) cleaning the surface of the wheel.
3. (Original) A process according to claim 2 wherein cleaning the surface of wheel forms an intermediate layer of material between the surface of the wheel and the base layer of organic material.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the [first] base layer of ~~inorganic~~ organic material applied in step [(d)] (b) includes a color.
5. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the first inorganic layer applied in step (d) includes a metallic material.
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5 wherein the second inorganic layer applied in step (e) includes a ceramic clear coat.
7. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the first inorganic layer applied in step (d) includes a ceramic material.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7 wherein the second inorganic layer applied in step (e) includes a ceramic clear coat.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein said second inorganic material deposited in step (e) is the same as said first inorganic material deposited in step (d).

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein said second inorganic material deposited in step (e) is different from said first inorganic material deposited in step (d).

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle wheel comprising:
an annular wheel rim;
a circular wheel disc formed across an end of said wheel rim;
a first layer formed ~~form an~~ from a cured organic material disposed over at least a portion of a surface of one of said wheel rim and said wheel disc;
a second layer formed from a first inorganic material disposed over said first layer; and
a third layer formed from a second inorganic material disposed over said second layer.

12. (Original) A vehicle wheel according to claim 11 wherein said first inorganic material includes a metallic material.

13. (Original) A vehicle wheel according to claim 12 wherein said second inorganic material includes a ceramic clear coat.

14. (Original) A vehicle wheel according to claim 11 wherein said first inorganic material includes a ceramic material.

15. (Original) A vehicle wheel according to claim 14 wherein said second inorganic material includes a ceramic clear coat.

16. (Original) A vehicle wheel according to claim 11 wherein said organic material in said first layer includes a color.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~process~~ vehicle wheel according to claim 11 wherein the second inorganic material ~~deposited in step (e)~~ is the same as the first inorganic material ~~deposited in step (d)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~process~~ vehicle wheel according to claim 11 wherein the second inorganic material ~~deposited in step (e)~~ is different from the first inorganic material ~~deposited in step (d)~~.

19. (Original) A vehicle wheel according to claim 11 further including an intermediate layer disposed between the surface of the wheel and said first layer of organic material.

20. (Currently Amended) A finish for a surface of a vehicle wheel disc comprising:

a first layer formed ~~from an~~ from a cured organic material disposed over at least a portion of a surface of the wheel disc;

a second layer formed from a first inorganic material disposed over said first layer; and

a third layer formed from a second inorganic material disposed over said second layer.

21. (New) A process according to claim 2 wherein the organic material deposited in step (b) is one of a polymer, a resin, an acrylic, an epoxy, an urethane and a paint.

22. (New) A process according to claim 21 wherein the first finish layer applied in step (d) is one of chromium, aluminum, titanium, silver and gold.

23. (New) A process according to claim 22 wherein the second finish layer applied in step (e) is one of a ceramic and a clear coat.

24. (New) A process according to claim 3 wherein the wheel provided in step (a) is formed from an aluminum alloy and further wherein the cleaning of the wheel surface in claim 2 forms an intermediate layer of aluminum oxide between the surface of the wheel and the base layer deposited in step (b).

25. (New) A process according to claim 22 wherein the first finish layer is deposited by one of plasma vapor deposition, arc vapor deposition, laser vapor deposition, single cathode sputtering and double cathode sputtering.

26. (New) A vehicle wheel according to claim 11 wherein said first layer of organic material includes one of a polymer, a resin, an acrylic, an epoxy and urethane and a paint.

27. (New) A vehicle wheel according to claim 26 wherein said second layer includes one of chromium, aluminum, titanium, silver and gold.

28. (New) A vehicle wheel according to claim 27 wherein said third layer includes a ceramic and a clear coat.

29. (New) A vehicle wheel according to claim 19 wherein the wheel is formed from an aluminum alloy and further wherein said intermediate layer of aluminum oxide between said surface of the wheel and said first layer includes aluminum oxide.